TRADE AND INDUSTRIES

CHAPTER VII—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

(i) Trade

546. The number of commercial and industrial enquiries received and dealt with by the Department was 273. These enquiries were received as usual from the various mercantile bodies and Government Departments in and outside the State. Information about the industries, trade and commerce sought for by the Mercantile classes was furnished to them directly or through the Directors of Industries of Provinces or States concerned and wherever necessary, they were also advised to contact the local firms. Besides, applications from firms for the supply of stores to the Supply Departments of Government of India and also other Provincial Governments were investigated with reference to their financial standing and business integrity and recommendations were made in deserving cases.

547. Arrangements made by the Department with the M. & S. M. Railway and M. S. Railway for the supply of statistics of rail-borne trade of the State once a quarter were continued during the year. Similarly the scheme for the collection of statistics of road-borne trade at the frontier toll grates of the State for a month through the Mutsaddies and contractors in charge of these toll gates was continued during the year.

548. The total trade in merchandise registered an unprecedented increase from 25·18 million railway maunds in 1948-49 to 32·04 million railway maunds in 1949-50.

Imports.

549. There was a general increase in the imports which totalled 24·84 million railway maunds in 1949-50 as against 18·34 million railway maunds in the previous year. The volume of imports under "Food, Drink and Tobacco" recorded a further increase from 5·84 million railway maunds in 1948-49 to 7·79 million railway maunds during the year. Rice, gram and pulse, wheat, and wheat-flour, salt and tobacco were the more important articles included under this group. There was also a similar increase in the imports under "Raw Materials", the quantity imported in 1949-50 being 9·96 million railway maunds as compared with 7·30 million railway maunds in 1948-49. There was

a further increase in the imports under "Articles wholly or mainly manufactured" from 5·16 million railway maunds in 1948-49 to 7.01 railway maunds during the year.

550. The total exports rose further from 6·84 million railway maunds in 1948-49 to 7·20 million railway maunds in 1949-50. The rise in the exports was chiefly due to the increased despatches under "Food, Drink and Tobacco" and "Articles wholly or mainly manufactured" which amounted to 3·35 million railway maunds and 2·10 million railway maunds respectively in 1949-50 as against 3·14 million railway maunds and 1·91 million railway maunds in the previous year. The improvement in the export trade under "Raw Materials" which was noticed during the previous year suffered a slight set-back during the year and the quantity exported was 1·71 million railway maunds in 1949-50. Refined sugar, coffee, cardamom, betelnut, groundnut, copra, potatoes, tamarind, tanned hides and skins and cast iron pigs and castings, were the most important articles in the export trade.

Exports.

(ii) Industries

551. The inflatory condition in the State as in the rest of India still continued during the year. The deterioration of the economic condition, the troublesome attitude of labour resulting in strikes, vicious spiral of wages and prices, scarcity in essentials, declining production, and the difficulties with regard to foreign imports consequent to the devaluation etc., have effected adversely the general industrial and commercial conditions in the State.

552. Mysore has been a pioneer in establishing several industries which have not only attained a high standard of efficiency but have earned a reputation for their products both in India and abroad. The speedy expansion of both large and small-scale industries in the State has been facilitated by the abundance of Hydro-electric power supply and adequate supply of raw materials.

553. The following were among the more important of the ways and means adopted for the promotion of industrial enterprises :—

1. Pioneering of the industries in cases where private effort and initiative are not forthcoming with a view to hand them over ultimately to private enterprise.